

### REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action of February 28, 2011 in connection with this matter. With this response, claims 1, 3 and 6 are amended, claim 7 is canceled and all pending claims 1-6 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, the claims were objected and rejected under 35 USC § 112. With this response, the claims have been amended and it is believed the objection and rejection may be withdrawn.

With this response, the claims have been further amended to define opposed first and second half shells of a thermally conductive material. Each pair of opposed half shells are held together by an outer elastic layer which holds the half shells against the electrical energy storage cells. The outer elastic layers have a lower thermal conductivity than the first and second half shells. This configuration is not shown in the cited references.

Further, the amended claims include an outer shell which covers the plurality of electrical energy storage cells and is coupled to the plurality of elongate separation bars. The elongate separation bars reduce shorting between cells and provide mechanical support. This configuration is also not shown in the cited references.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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